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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/656,103	09/08/2003	Minako Kato	01272.020629.	7041
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/656,103

Applicant(s)

KATO, MINAKO

Examiner

BENIYAM MENBERU

Art Unit

2625

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 February 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 25-30 and 41-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 25-30 and 41-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed February 16, 2010, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 25, 30, 44, 49, 53, and 54 under U.S. Patent No. 6027196 to Gotoh et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5982990 to Gondek further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0169438 A1 to Velde et al have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of U.S. Patent No. 5457007 to Asami.

2. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed February 16, 2010, with respect to claims 25, 30, 44, 49, 53, and 54 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 25, 30, 44, 49, 53, and 54 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 44-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. While the claims recite a series of steps or acts to be performed, a statutory "process" under 35 U.S.C. 101 must (1) be tied to another statutory category (such as a particular apparatus), or (2) transform underlying subject

matter (such as an article or material) to a different state or thing (Reference the May 15, 2008 memorandum issued by Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examining Policy, John J. Love, titled "Clarification of 'Processes' under 35 U.S.C. 101" – publicly available at USPTO.GOV, "memorandum to examining corp"). The instant claims neither transform underlying subject matter nor positively tie to another statutory category that accomplishes the claimed method steps, and therefore do not qualify as a statutory process. In order for a process to be "tied" to another statutory category, the structure of another statutory category should be positively recited in a step or steps significant to the basic inventive concept, and NOT just in association with statements of intended use or purpose, insignificant pre or post solution activity, or implicitly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 25, 28, 29, 30, 44, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5982990 to Gondek in view of U.S. Patent No. 5457007 to Asami.

Regarding claim 25, Gondek '990 discloses an image processing apparatus (column 4, lines 28-36) comprising:

a first unit for converting primary color data into color data for outputting a dark color material only in a first mode, wherein the primary color has any two of maximum values and one of minimum value of colors R, G and B (column 7, lines 27-35; max value for R, G, B is 8; column 7, lines 40-57; column 8, lines 22-25, lines 27-31; in transition from white to yellow to black, when RGB=8,8,0 only dark yellow is used and no light ink (Ic or Im) is used and in transition from white to magenta to black, RGB=8,0,8 only uses dark M and no light ink (Ic or Im) is used. Thus in this mode, the RGB values have two max values of 8 and one minimum value 0.); and

a second unit for converting the primary color data having any one of maximum values and one of minimum values of colors R, G and B into color data for outputting both the dark color material and a light color material in a second mode, wherein the color data converted from the primary color data in the second mode is color data for outputting both the dark color material corresponding to a complementary color of the minimum value of colors and light ink material other than the complementary color of the minimum value of colors (column 7, lines 27-35; **max value for any of R, G, B is 8**; column 7, lines 40-57; color conversion from RGB to CMYLcLmK; column 8, lines 41-45; in transition from Magenta to Blue, the input RGB=(5,0,8) wherein B=8 is maximum value and G=0 is a minimum value but R=5 is not maximum value. Thus this corresponds to one maximum value and one minimum value of RGB in contrast to two maximum value as claimed. For this RGB=(5,0,8) value, the Dark Magenta=190 and Light Cyan (LC)=147 is output. The complementary color to the minimum value of G=0 is Magenta since Magenta is complementary to green. Further light cyan which is used

for output is different from the dark magenta (complementary color).). However Gondek '990 does not disclose when both the dark color material and a light color material are output in a second mode, the primary color data has any two of maximum values and one of minimum values of colors R, G and B.

Asami '007 discloses when both the dark color material and a light color material are output in a second mode, the primary color data has any two of maximum values and one of minimum values of colors R, G and B (column 2, lines 23-39; Me color output is function of Ro, Go, Bo; column 9, lines 41-57; column 10, lines 60-67; color conversion of RGB to CMY; column 14, lines 40-67; column 15, lines 1-20; when single Magenta light LD is used for exposing, the output color formed is Magenta plus Light cyan; Since a single magenta light corresponds to a color made of maximum of R value and B value and minimum of G, an output of Magenta plus Light cyan is generated when input has two maximum value of R and B and minimum value G.).

Having the system of **Primary reference** and then given the well-established teaching of **secondary reference**, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of **primary reference** as taught by **secondary reference**, since **secondary reference** stated in col. CCCC, Lines LLLL, such a modification would improve/provide/enhance/result (Motivation: special marking for the purpose of security reason).

Regarding claim 28, Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 teaches all the limitations of claim 25. Further Gondek '990 discloses the image processing apparatus

of claim 25, wherein the dark color materials are K, C, M and Y inks (column 3, lines 45-55).

Regarding claim 29, Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 teaches all the limitations of claim 25. Further Gondek '990 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 25, wherein the light color materials are light cyan and light magenta inks (column 3, lines 45-55).

Regarding claim 41, Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 teaches all the limitations of claim 25. Further Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 25, wherein the primary color data is a color data in which two of colors R, G, and B have their maximum values (Gondek '990: column 7, lines 27-35; max value for R, G, B is 8; column 7, lines 40-57; column 8, lines 22-25, lines 27-31; in transition from white to magenta to black, when **RGB=8,0,8 that corresponds to primary color magenta wherein R and B have max values**), and wherein the dark color material and the light color material are mixed in the second mode (column 8, lines 42-45, lines 27-31; for RGB=5, 0, 8, Magenta=190 is mixed with Lc=147).

Regarding claim 42, see rejection of claim 41 as shown above. The apparatus of Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 renders obvious the apparatus of claim 42.

Regarding claim 30, Gondek '990 discloses an image processing apparatus (column 4, lines 28-36) for forming an image by using dark color materials and light color materials (column 3, lines 44-51), the apparatus comprising:

a first unit for forming an image by using just the dark color material for reproducing primary color data in a first mode, wherein the primary color has any two of maximum values and one of minimum value of colors R, G and B (column 7, lines 27-35; max value for R, G, B is 8; column 7, lines 40-57; column 8, lines 22-25, lines 27-31; in transition from white to yellow to black, when RGB=8,8,0 only dark yellow is used and no light ink (Ic or Im) is used and in transition from white to magenta to black, RGB=8,0,8 only uses dark M and no light ink (Ic or Im) is used. Thus in this mode, the RGB values have two max values of 8 and one minimum value 0.); and

a second unit for forming an image by using the dark color material and a light color material having a different color from the dark color material for reproducing the primary color data having any one of maximum values and one of minimum values of colors R, G and B in a second mode, wherein the image formed in the second mode is formed by using both the dark color material corresponding to a complementary color of the minimum value of colors and light ink material other than the complementary color of the minimum value of colors (column 7, lines 27-35; **max value for any of R, G, B is 8**; column 7, lines 40-57; color conversion from RGB to CMYLCmK; column 8, lines 41-45; in transition from Magenta to Blue, the input RGB=(5,0,8) wherein B=8 is maximum value and G=0 is a minimum value but R=5 is not a maximum value. Thus this

corresponds to one maximum value and one minimum value of RGB in contrast to two maximum value as claimed. For this RGB=(5,0,8) value, the Dark Magenta=190 and Light Cyan (LC)=147 is output. The complementary color to the minimum value of G=0 is Magenta since Magenta is complementary to green. Further light cyan which is used for output is different from the dark magenta (complementary color).). However Gondek '990 does not disclose when both the dark color material and a light color material are output in a second mode, the primary color data has any two of maximum values and one of minimum values of colors R, G and B.

Asami '007 discloses when both the dark color material and a light color material are output in a second mode, the primary color data has any two of maximum values and one of minimum values of colors R, G and B (column 2, lines 23-39; Me color output is function of Ro, Go, Bo; column 9, lines 41-57; column 10, lines 60-67; color conversion of RGB to CMY; column 14, lines 40-67; column 15, lines 1-20; when single Magenta light LD is used for exposing, the output color formed is Magenta plus Light cyan which are different colors; Since a single magenta light corresponds to a color made of maximum of R value and B value and minimum of G, an output of Magenta plus Light cyan is generated when input has two maximum value of R and B and minimum value G.).

Having the system of **Primary reference** and then given the well-established teaching of **secondary reference**, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of **primary reference** as taught by **secondary reference**, since **secondary reference** stated in col. CCCC,

Lines LLLL, such a modification would improve/provide/enhance/result (Motivation: special marking for the purpose of security reason).

Regarding claim 44, Gondek '990 discloses an image processing (column 4, lines 28-36) method comprising the steps of:

converting primary color data (column 7, lines 25-31) into color data for outputting a dark color material only in a first mode, wherein the primary color has any two of maximum values and one of minimum value of colors R, G and B (column 7, lines 27-35; max value for R, G, B is 8; column 7, lines 40-57; column 8, lines 22-25, lines 27-31; in transition from white to yellow to black, when RGB=8,8,0 only dark yellow is used and no light ink (Ic or Im) is used and in transition from white to magenta to black, RGB=8,0,8 only uses dark M and no light ink (Ic or Im) is used. Thus in this mode, the RGB values have two max values of 8 and one minimum value 0.); and

converting the primary color data having any one of maximum values and one of minimum values of colors R, G and B into color data for outputting both the dark color material and a light color material in a second mode, wherein the color data converted from the primary color data in the second mode is color data for outputting both the dark color material corresponding to a complementary color of the minimum value of colors and light ink material other than the complementary color of the minimum value of colors (column 7, lines 27-35; **max value for any of R, G, B is 8**; column 7, lines 40-57; color conversion from RGB to CMYLCmK; column 8, lines 41-45; in transition from

Magenta to Blue, the input RGB=(5,0,8) wherein B=8 is maximum value and G=0 is a minimum value but R=5 is not a maximum value. Thus this corresponds to one maximum value and one minimum value of RGB in contrast to two maximum value as claimed. For this RGB=(5,0,8) value, the Dark Magenta=190 and Light Cyan (LC)=147 is output. The complementary color to the minimum value of G=0 is Magenta since Magenta is complementary to green. Further light cyan which is used for output is different from the dark magenta (complementary color).). However Gondek '990 does not disclose when both the dark color material and a light color material are output in a second mode, the primary color data has any two of maximum values and one of minimum values of colors R, G and B.

Asami '007 discloses when both the dark color material and a light color material are output in a second mode, the primary color data has any two of maximum values and one of minimum values of colors R, G and B (column 2, lines 23-39; Me color output is function of Ro, Go, Bo; column 9, lines 41-57; column 10, lines 60-67; color conversion of RGB to CMY; column 14, lines 40-67; column 15, lines 1-20; when single Magenta light LD is used for exposing, the output color formed is Magenta plus Light cyan which are different colors; Since a single magenta light corresponds to a color made of maximum of R value and B value and minimum of G, an output of Magenta plus Light cyan is generated when input has two maximum value of R and B and minimum value G.).

Having the system of *Primary reference* and then given the well-established teaching of *secondary reference*, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of **primary reference** as taught by **secondary reference**, since **secondary reference** stated in col. CCCC, Lines LLLL, such a modification would improve/provide/enhance/result (Motivation: special marking for the purpose of security reason).

Regarding claim 47, see rejection of claim 28 as shown above. The apparatus of Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 renders obvious the method of claim 47.

Regarding claim 48, see rejection of claim 29 as shown above. The apparatus of Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 renders obvious the method of claim 48.

Regarding claim 49, Gondek '990 discloses an image processing (column 4, lines 28-36) method of forming an image by using dark color materials and light color materials (column 3, lines 44-51), the method comprising the steps of:

forming an image by using just the dark color material for reproducing primary color data in a first mode, wherein the primary color has any two of maximum values and one of minimum value of colors R, G and B (column 7, lines 27-35; max value for R, G, B is 8; column 7, lines 40-57; column 8, lines 22-25, lines 27-31; in transition from white to yellow to black, when **RGB=8,8,0** only dark yellow is used and no light ink (lc or lm) is used and in transition from white to magenta to black, **RGB=8,0,8** only uses dark M and

no light ink (lc or lm) is used. Thus in this mode, the RGB values have two max values of 8 and one minimum value 0.); and

forming an image by using the dark color material and a light color material having a different color from the dark color material for reproducing the primary color data having any one of maximum values and one of minimum values of colors R, G and B in a second mode, wherein the image formed in the second mode is formed by using both the dark color material corresponding to a complementary color of the minimum value of colors and light ink material other than the complementary color of the minimum value of colors (column 7, lines 27-35; **max value for any of R, G, B is 8**; column 7, lines 40-57; color conversion from RGB to CMYLCmK; column 8, lines 41-45; in transition from Magenta to Blue, the input RGB=(5,0,8) wherein B=8 is maximum value and G=0 is a minimum value but **R=5 is not a maximum value**. Thus this corresponds to one maximum value and one minimum value of RGB in contrast to two maximum value as claimed. For this RGB=(5,0,8) value, the **Dark Magenta**=190 and **Light Cyan** (LC)=147 is output. The complementary color to the minimum value of G=0 is Magenta since Magenta is complementary to green. Further light cyan which is used for output is different from the dark magenta (complementary color).). However Gondek '990 does not disclose when both the dark color material and a light color material are output in a second mode, the primary color data has any two of maximum values and one of minimum values of colors R, G and B.

Asami '007 discloses when both the dark color material and a light color material are output in a second mode, the primary color data has any two of maximum values

and one of minimum values of colors R, G and B (column 2, lines 23-39; Me color output is function of Ro, Go, Bo; column 9, lines 41-57; column 10, lines 60-67; color conversion of RGB to CMY; column 14, lines 40-67; column 15, lines 1-20; when single Magenta light LD is used for exposing, the output color formed is Magenta plus Light cyan which are different colors; Since a single magenta light corresponds to a color made of maximum of R value and B value and minimum of G, an **output of Magenta plus Light cyan is generated** when input has two maximum value of R and B and minimum value G.).

Having the system of ***Primary reference*** and then given the well-established teaching of ***secondary reference***, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of ***primary reference*** as taught by ***secondary reference***, since ***secondary reference*** stated in col. CCCC, Lines LLLL, such a modification would improve/provide/enhance/result (Motivation: special marking for the purpose of security reason).

Regarding claim 50, see rejection of claim 41 as shown above. The apparatus of Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 renders obvious the method of claim 50.

Regarding claim 51, see rejection of claim 42 as shown above. The apparatus of Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 renders obvious the method of claim 51.

Regarding claim 53, see rejection of claim 25 as shown above. The apparatus of Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 renders obvious the programming steps of claim 53. Further Gondek '990 discloses a computer-readable recording medium encoded with computer-executable instructions for performing an image processing method (column 5, lines 36-44).

Regarding claim 54, see rejection of claim 30 as shown above. The apparatus of Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 renders obvious the programming steps of claim 54. Further Gondek '990 discloses a computer-readable recording medium encoded with computer-executable instructions for performing an image processing method (column 5, lines 36-44).

3. Claims 26 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5982990 to Gondek in view of U.S. Patent No. 5457007 to Asami further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6786578 to Aschman et al.

Regarding claim 26, Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 teaches all the limitations of claim 25. Further Gondek '990 discloses wherein the second mode is a mode in which image quality is higher than that in the first mode (column 4, lines 45-47; using CMYLCmK for improved image color output). However Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 does not disclose wherein the first mode is a fast printing mode.

Aschman et al '578 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 25, wherein the first mode is a fast printing mode (The second mode is faster (column 3, lines 48-55) which corresponds to the mode using only dark material K, Y, C, M; column 4, lines 33-44).

Having the system of **Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007** and then given the well-established teaching of **Aschman et al '578**, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of **Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007** as taught by **Aschman et al '578**, since **Aschman et al '578** stated in col. 1, Lines 27-31; col. 3, lines 50-55 such a modification would provide a mode of using dark material ink only when print speed is important.

Regarding claim 45, see rejection of claim 26 as shown above. The apparatus of Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 further in view of Aschman et al '578 renders obvious the method of claim 45.

4. Claims 27, 43, 46, and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5982990 to Gondek in view of U.S. Patent No. 5457007 to Asami further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6717601 to Sanger further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6592212 to Kakutani.

Regarding claim 27, Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 teaches all the limitations of claim 25. However Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 does not disclose wherein the first mode is a mode for lowering granularity.

Kakutani '212 discloses a mode for lowering granularity (column 25, lines 34-38; column 41, lines 17-35; addition of Dark yellow (DY) helps to lower granularity.).

Having the system of **Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007** and then given the well-established teaching of **Kakutani '212**, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of **Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007** as taught by **Kakutani '212**, since **Kakutani '212** stated in col. 7, Lines 1-7, such a modification would provide better quality for the picture.

However Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 does not disclose the second mode is a mode for color matching.

Sanger '601 discloses a mode for color matching (column 3, lines 6-12; color matching is achieved by adding light color materials.).

Having the system of **Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007** and then given the well-established teaching of **Sanger '601**, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of **Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007** as taught by **Sanger '601**, since **Sanger '601** stated in col. 3, Lines 4-12, such a modification would provide improved resolution and control in the proof for color matching.

Regarding claim 43, see rejection of claim 27 as shown above. The apparatus of Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 further in view of Kakutani '212 further in view of Sanger '601 render obvious the apparatus of claim 43.

Regarding claim 46, see rejection of claim 27 as shown above. The apparatus of Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 further in view of Sanger '601 further in view of Kakutani '212 renders obvious the method of claim 46.

Regarding claim 52, see rejection of claim 46 as shown above. The apparatus of Gondek '990 in view of Asami '007 further in view of Kakutani '212 further in view of Sanger '601 render obvious the method of claim 52.

Other Prior Art Cited

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 6930809 to Kagawa et al discloses color processing.

U.S. Patent No. 6633407 to Kim et al discloses color processing.

U.S. Patent No. 5982993 to Slade discloses printing system.

U.S. Patent No. 6509916 to Kakinuma et al discloses print system.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BENIYAM MENBERU whose telephone number is (571) 272-7465. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the customer service office whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600. The group receptionist number for TC 2600 is (571) 272-2600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov/>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patent Examiner

Beniyam Menberu

/Beniyam Menberu/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

03/13/2010

/David K Moore/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625